

SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS OF SURGERY. Edited by J Kyle and JD Hardy.
Third Edition, (Pp xiv + 712, Illustrated. £48.00). London: Heinemann, 1981.

IN the third edition of what has now become something of a surgical classic the senior editorship has been taken on by a Queen's man, James Kyle, who has successfully linked up with Dr James Hardy, of Jackson, Mississippi, editor in chief of the prestigious 'World Journal of Surgery'. As a result there is a Mid-Atlantic flavour which is generally highly successful, though the conversion of *adrenalin* in one chapter to *epinephrine* in others does rather irritate your reviewer. There are some curious errors—blood sugar of 50 mgms/dl is said to equal 50 mmol/l, whereas the correct figure should be 2.78.

In this book there is a veritable mine of information which is generally well and clearly presented. Revision has been thorough and there are many up-to-date references. The short chapter on the spleen, for example, gives an excellent review of the recent change in surgical attitudes to the question of splenectomy.

This book covers a great deal of the ground which the primary fellowship candidate requires in both applied physiology and general pathology; it is more attractively presented than in some of the books often recommended. This is not a book simply aimed at examination candidates but must appeal to any thoughtful surgeon who likes to check the facts of patho physiology underlying his pet theories, or related to the lecture which he is preparing for his students.

The young man who passes his primary may be tempted to sell the book but may well elect to keep it for reference later in his surgical career. I regard this as a magnificent book, beautifully produced and printed, and well worth the not inconsiderable price—£48.00.

TCK

THROMBOSIS: CLINICS IN HAEMATOLOGY. Volume 10, Number 2. Edited by CRM Prentice. (Pp vi + 259-696, Illustrated. £10.75). London, Philadelphia, Toronto: Saunders, 1981.

THIS book provides a comprehensive survey of all aspects of both venous and arterial thrombosis. The chapter on platelets, prostaglandin metabolism and its relation to the development of arterial thrombosis is an excellent update. However, it is extremely detailed and a comprehensive background knowledge of coagulation and particularly of platelet function tests, would be necessary for a full understanding of its content.

The chapter devoted to the laboratory evaluation of hypercoagulability clarifies the difficulties in this field of medicine. This highlights changes in coagulation present in patients with unequivocal evidence of thrombosis but also points out how often abnormal coagulation is present in the absence of thrombosis, and how often patients suffer from repeated thrombosis with no apparent laboratory evidence to support the presence of a hypercoagulable state.

Anti platelet therapy is fully dealt with by Turpie in a well presented chapter. The results of controlled clinical trials are clearly documented. The relationship of antithrombin III deficiency to deep vein thrombosis is well presented and provides one of the best chapters of this volume. Further aspects relative to the problem of thrombosis are dealt with in the chapters on the rheology of blood, the role of fibrinolysis, risk factors, pregnancy and the contraceptive pill.

I feel that this book is an excellent update of all aspects of thrombosis, both diagnostic and therapeutic. However, I think only selected chapters are of a special value.

EEM

A GUIDE TO RADIOLOGICAL PROCEDURES. By Stephen Chapman and Richard Nakielny. (Pp 250, Illustrated. £6.50). London: Baillière Tindall, 1981.

THIS small book on radiological procedures represents excellent value for money. It is comprehensive and the format is ideal for any radiologist commencing training and frequently having to carry out such procedures without immediate supervision. The fact that the book is pocket-sized and therefore, can be referenced immediately, should not be under-estimated.

The authors point out in the preface that this is the method of examination in the departments of radiology in Bristol, and accept that other centres will have certain variations.

The appendices are well presented and, in themselves, would almost make the book worthwhile. I can strongly recommend it to all junior staff training in radiology.

EMMcI